

Fall In

Preston named 13th SMA

Command Sergeant Major Kenneth O. Preston has been selected as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Preston will succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley when he retires Jan. 15. Preston has been serving as the command sergeant major for V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany, since April 2001. He is also serving as the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Preston will be sworn in as the newest Army senior enlisted advisor during ceremonies at the Pentagon on Jan. 15. Preston is a native of Mount Savage, Md.



He entered the Army on June 30, 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position from tank commander to command sergeant major.

New risk assessment tool online

The U.S. Army Safety Center has developed a new risk assessment tool for Soldiers traveling in their privately owned vehicles. Type in your travel plans, and the program calculates the risks. For more information, visit <https://safety.army.mil/asmis1/>.



AKO available on SIPRNET

AKO-S is the Army's intranet portal for handling classified information up to the **secret** level. AKO-S provides capabilities similar to AKO (e.g. Webmail, IM, Single Sign On, and Army Knowledge Collaboration Center). It can only be accessed from a SIPRNET terminal at <http://www.us.army.SMIL.mil>.



CALL transforms with OIF

Officials from the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., are reporting that the center is transforming along with the lessons learned in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. CALL director, Col. Larry Saul, notes that one way CALL is transforming is by embedding staff with forward-deployed units. In doing so, Soldiers and leaders are afforded near-immediate access to emerging insights and observations.

According to Saul, if an event occurs and a unit experiences a new enemy tactic, technique or procedure, CALL staff can conduct an after action review right there in the field and send that information through their chain of command to the division.

Currently CALL has three liaison officers with divisions in Iraq and one with Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Afghanistan. Information

gathered is shared with other division officers who share it with their brigades and battalions. CALL also receives the information and completes distribution as well. Information is distributed primarily to follow-on units, the combat training centers and Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) mission activities (including the centers and schools) as well as joint, interagency and multinational organizations.

CALL also takes the lessons learned and recommends changes to the Army doctrine, training, organization, material, leadership, personnel or facilities. These recommendations are made to TRADOC which then forwards them to Army level for review and approval. Information technology advances have allowed

CALL to disseminate its products much faster than in the past. One way is through its request for information feature on the CALL Web site: <http://call.army.mil/>.



Here information regarding operational and force-protection issues from the latest Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom products to combat training center operational records are available. Visitors can also participate in a threaded discussion on the Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Cold War certificates available

Servicemembers, veterans and federal employees who served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991 are still eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate, said officials of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

In fiscal year 1998, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding the certificate to personnel who served during the Cold War. Thus far, about one million people have responded out of the 22 million entitled to receive the certificate, officials said.

An application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate can be found on the Internet at <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/coldwar/default.htm>. The Web site informs applicants about the correct procedures and the required documentation to receive the certificate. Applications will only be accepted by fax or mail, officials said. More information on the certificate can be found on Human Resources Command's Cold War Web site or by calling customer service at (703) 325-5864.



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Conditional promotions suspended

All conditional promotions Army-wide from sergeant to sergeant first class will be suspended until further notice as of Jan. 1.

Under a new policy dated Oct. 10, the Army will stop all conditional promotions from sergeant to sergeant first class after Jan. 1.

Here's how the new policy will look:

❑ A sergeant has to graduate from the Primary Leadership Development Course to be considered for promotion to staff sergeant.

❑ A staff sergeant has to graduate from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to sergeant first class.

❑ A sergeant first class has to graduate from the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to master sergeant.

Under the old policy, a Soldier promoted to sergeant had to finish PLDC within one year to keep the rank. Now a

Soldier promoted to sergeant doesn't need PLDC at all to keep the rank but will need it for consideration for staff sergeant.

Currently there are 36,641 Soldiers waiting for seats in the Army's various Noncommissioned Officer Education System schools, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lionel Parker, of the institutional training shop at the Army G-3.

That breaks down into 15,373 sergeants, 13,367 staff sergeants and 7,901 sergeants first class waiting for that important step in their careers.

Parker said the Army's operations staff is working out details of a plan to train those Soldiers waiting for school seats.

As it stands now, units tapped for deployment will send their Soldiers to school before going, and units coming back will send them afterward, Parker said.

The policy also states retiring Soldiers or those leaving the Army will depart the Army in their current rank regardless of their NCOES status.



Reserves seek AGR Recruiters

Current members of the Army Reserve, Army National Guard and active Army Soldiers interested in the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Program may be eligible to become an Army Reserve Recruiter. Although full requirements are listed in AR 601-1, Chapter 6, some of the requirements are:

Soldiers must be in the rank of specialist through sergeant first class; have a GT score of 110 or above; be

at least 21, but younger than 35; and have less than 13 years of Active Federal Service.

Recruiters have excellent promotion opportunities. In addition to earning active duty pay and benefits, Recruiters receive a \$450 special duty assignment pay, use of a government

vehicle and an expense allowance. For more information, log on to <http://www.goarmy.com/contact/>.



Army Reserve, Guard job center opens

The 125,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers currently mobilized for the war on terror will have help finding jobs when they go home.

The Army Career and Alumni Program Demobilization Center that opened in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 29 will help them find new jobs, said James Hoffman, program director.

"Things change," Hoffman said. "A Soldier gets home after being mobilized and finds the job he was counting on isn't there anymore; maybe the company folded, or maybe that Soldier realized he has grown and the old job just wasn't right any longer."

The center responds to questions about eligibility for transition services and benefits as well as offer referrals to other service providers such as the Department of Labor and

Department of State Employment Office and Veterans Affairs.

Program officials are giving Reserve component Soldiers business cards with contact information as they demobilize, Hoffman said.

A returning Reservist or Guardsman can be put in touch with a person who can help by calling 1-877-722-2270 or e-mailing acap4rc@hoffman.army.mil. Additional details are at <http://www.acap.army.mil>.

In addition, Soldiers who want to return to their jobs have reinstatement rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. More information about that can be found at the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve Web site at <http://www.esgr.org>.

ESGR Forward comes to Europe



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense committee, is moving forward to help National Guard and Reserve Soldiers stationed in Europe. Thanks to ESGR Forward, Europe now has an Ombudsman to help Guard and Reserve Soldiers and their employers, who need assistance with re-employment or employment issues. Soldiers in Europe who need assistance may contact their Ombudsman at DSN (314) 430-8864 or esgreurope@aol.com. Soldiers who need information about ESGR and are stationed outside of Europe may call 1-800-336-4590 or visit <http://www.esgr.org>.

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Safety Center wants you to tell Joey

Soldiers don't have to learn lessons the hard way through accidents. They can also learn from close calls, near misses and minor mistakes, both their own and those of others. This is an opportunity for Soldiers to share experiences with each other. They can be long or short, recent or from the past. Soldiers can share their



lessons learned with Joey, as well as all of the Army. Send their stories to the U.S. Army Safety Center, ATTN: "Joey" Bldg 4905, 5th Ave., Fort Rucker, Ala. 36362-5363 or fax DSN 558-3003, (334)-255-3003, ATTN: "Joey". You can also e-mail: joey@safetycenter.army.mil.

New Web site outlines in-state tuition eligibility

The Army Continuing Education System now hosts the In-State Tuition Web site.

"The site provides information on state policies and laws regarding in-state tuition eligibility requirements for military personnel and their families," said Mike Tevnan, education specialist at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

The Army contacted each state asking them to consider their residency requirements for in-state tuition in light of the Army's goals for common policies. The desired outcome, Tevnan said, is eligibility for in-state tuition rates under each of the following conditions: in-state tuition for Soldiers and family members within the state of legal residence; immediate in-state tuition for Soldiers and family members in the state of assignment; and continuity of

in-state tuition once established.

Users of the new Web site will be able to tell whether a particular state meets all three criteria by simply clicking on "Summary by State." A map

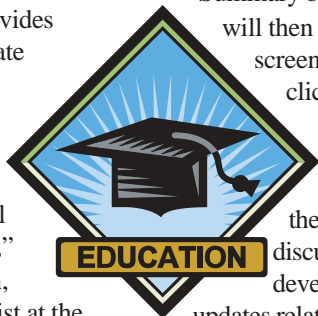
will then pop onto the screen and users can click on the state of interest.

In addition, a news section on the home page discusses any new developments or updates related to in-state

tuition, and the references section will provide links to military education Web sites, scholarship Web sites and other important information that may be of further assistance.

Currently, 43 states have policy or legislation that meets two of the three goals and 19 of which meet all three criteria of the model policy, Tevnan said.

The In-State Tuition Web site can be accessed by logging onto the ACES Web site: <http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/> and follow the link shortcut to State Policies or Residency Requirements.



Corporal Recruiters wanted

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command is still looking for volunteers for the Corporal Recruiting Program.

The program began in 1999 on a trial basis and since has allowed privates first class and specialists to do one-year Recruiting tours to tell the Army story.

The volunteer Corporal Recruiting Program is open to interested privates first class and specialists who meet Recruiter qualifications as outlined in Army Regulation 601-1. The qualification criteria can be accessed via the Internet at http://www.usapa.army.mil/series_range_pubs.asp?range=601. Soldiers must be single and have at least 24 months time remaining in service upon signing in at their Recruiting unit.

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command will make the final Corporal Recruiter selections. Once selected, applicants will be scheduled for a six-week recruiting course at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Corporal Recruiters are assigned to Recruiting areas near their hometowns. Other incentives include 38 promotions points for completing the Recruiting course, \$450 a month in special-duty pay and the opportunity to select their next overseas assignment or assignment to any U.S.-based installation with a corps or division.

Those interested in applying should contact their Retention NCO or call Sgt. 1st Class Mark Johnson at DSN 221-7902 or commercial (703) 325-7902 at HRC Alexandria, Va.

NCOJ needs photos

The *NCO Journal* is launching a new feature, "Photo Journal," a photo gallery, capturing what NCOs around the Army are doing. Since "Photo Journal" will be a regular feature in each issue of the magazine, we're putting out the call to all photographers. Whether you consider yourself an amateur or a professional, we encourage you to send us your photos. The only guidelines for photo entries is that the photo must demonstrate an NCO or NCOs doing their duties, be it accomplishing a mission, training or taking care of Soldiers. We will print the best entries in each issue. The winning photographers will receive a certificate acknowledging their photographic excellence. Please remember to send caption information and the photographer's name, rank and unit so we can give the photographer credit. Our e-mail and mailing addresses are both listed on the inside cover the magazine.

Warrant officer opportunities

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/warrant> or DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478/0271/1860.

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New NCOER error code added



Error Code 80 was recently added to the NCO Evaluation Report Error Listings. The newly established code identifies inconsistent ratings. This error code applies to blocks Va, Vd and Ve and will only be used if the reviewer concurred with the inconsistent rating on the NCOER. No error code is issued if the reviewer nonconcurs and gives his/her opinion

regarding the inconsistent rating. Numerous reports arrive at Enlisted Records (Human Resources Command-Indianapolis) reflecting inconsistent rater and senior rater comments and markings, sending a mixed signal to centralized promotion board panels. To view the complete Error Listing go to http://www.erec.army.mil/ncoer/error_listing.htm.

Academy needs AGR instructors

The Fort Dix, N.J., NCO Academy is looking for Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) staff sergeants, including AGR staff sergeant candidates, to serve as instructors.

For more information, call the Academy's Director of Instruction at (609) 562-3505 or DSN 944-3505.

Army leadership announces 'The Way Ahead'



Senior Army leaders have disclosed their vision of how the Army will fulfill its mission to provide necessary forces and capabilities to the Combatant Commanders in support of the National Security and Defense Strategies. "The Way Ahead," an overview of the Army Strategic Planning Guidance (ASPG), is now available online at <http://www.army.mil/>

the wayahead/. It provides an analysis of the strategic environment, national guidance and operational requirements. It also makes clear that the Army must be prepared for operations of a type, tempo, pace, and duration different from those we have structured our forces and systems to achieve. Some assumptions made and processes developed for a Cold War Army or an Army with a "window of opportunity" to transform itself, while valid at the time, are no longer relevant to the current security environment.

2004 Promotion Boards

The next board for promotion to the rank of master sergeant is scheduled Feb. 3 through Feb. 27. Another is scheduled Oct. 5 through Oct. 29. The next board for promotion to the ranks of sergeant major and command sergeant major is scheduled June 3 through June 24. There is no board for promotion to sergeant first class scheduled in 2004.

Reserves receive all commissary benefits

National Guard and Reserve military personnel and family members are now eligible for unlimited benefits at the commissary.

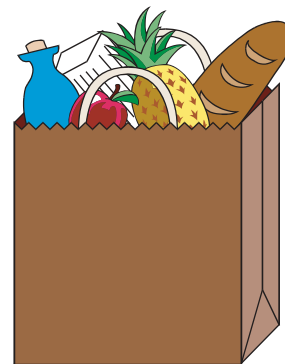
The Department of Defense announced last week that, with the President's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004, commissary benefits that were formerly part-time or nonexistent for some, are now available on an unlimited basis.

National Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the President signed the act, which eliminated the restrictions.

Individual Ready Reserve members were previously not allowed commissary access.

Members of the Ready Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard and members of the Retired Reserve members, as well as their family members,

who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card may shop at the commissary.



DFAS posts W-2s to myPay

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance call myPay customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

Online voting test underway

Voters from several counties in Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Washington have an opportunity to participate in a test of online voting.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is encouraging servicemembers and their family members and U.S. citizens living overseas to consider taking part in an initiative termed "SERVE" for Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment.

Eligible U.S. citizens can vote from any Windows-based computer with internet access – anywhere in the world.

Check out the link at <http://www.serveusa.gov/public/aca.aspx> if you're from one of the states listed above and be part of a possible new era in absentee voting.

